

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic program guide providing device comprising:

5        an editing means for editing electronic program information;

         an electronic program information storage means for storing the electronic program information edited by said editing means;

10       a table generation means for generating an electronic program guide table by using the electronic program information stored in said electronic program information storage means, said device providing the generated electronic program guide table;

15       when updating the electronic program information stored in said electronic program information storage means, said editing means generating update information on the updating of the electronic program information; and

         said table generation means updating the electronic program guide table based on said update information generated by said editing means by using the electronic program information stored in said electronic program information storage means.

25       2. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 1, wherein said device further includes an update information storage means for storing the update information generated by said editing means, and wherein, when updating the electronic program information stored in said  
30       electronic program information storage means, said editing

means stores the update information on the updating of the electronic program information in said update information storage means, and said table generation means generates the electronic program guide table based on the update information stored in said update information storage means by using the electronic program information stored in said electronic program information storage means.

3. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 1, wherein said electronic program guide table consists of a plurality of electronic program information tables each of which corresponds to the type of electronic program information included therein, and said table generation means determines which electronic program information table has to be updated based on the update information on the updating of the electronic program information, and updates only one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated.

4. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 2, wherein said electronic program guide table consists of a plurality of electronic program information tables each of which corresponds to the type of electronic program information included therein, and said table generation means determines which electronic program information table has to be updated based on the update information on the updating of the electronic program information, and updates only one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated.

5. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 3, wherein said table generation means updates only one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated at predetermined intervals.

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6. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 4, wherein said table generation means updates only one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated at predetermined intervals.

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7. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 5, wherein said table generation means sets the length of predetermined intervals at which only one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated are updated according to a sending frequency of an electronic program information table with the largest sending frequency.

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8. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 6, wherein said table generation means sets the length of predetermined intervals at which only one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated are updated according to a sending frequency of an electronic program information table with the largest sending frequency.

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9. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 5, wherein said table generation means sets the length of predetermined intervals at which each of one or more electronic program information tables that need to be updated is updated according to a sending frequency of each of the one or more electronic program information tables.

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10. The electronic program guide providing device  
according to Claim 6, wherein said table generation means sets  
the length of predetermined intervals at which each of one or  
5 more electronic program information tables that need to be  
updated is updated according to a sending frequency of each of  
the one or more electronic program information tables.

11. The electronic program guide providing device  
10 according to Claim 2, wherein said device includes a plurality  
of editing means, and each of said plurality of editing means  
inspects update information generated by any other editing  
means stored in said update information storage means.

12. The electronic program guide providing device  
15 according to Claim 2, wherein said update information storage  
means stores histories of the update information generated by  
said editing means, and said editing means restores the  
electronic program information stored in said electronic  
20 program information storage means to the state it was prior to  
any updating done by said editing means with reference to the  
histories of the update information stored in said update  
information storage means if necessary.

13. The electronic program guide providing device  
25 according to Claim 1, wherein said table generation means  
determines whether the updating of the electronic program  
information done by said editing means causes something wrong  
in the generation of the electronic program guide table, when  
30 determining so, notifies said editing means that there causes

something wrong in the generation of the electronic program guide table, and invalidates the updating of the electronic program information.

5           14. The electronic program guide providing device  
according to Claim 1, wherein said table generation means  
determines whether the updating of the electronic program  
information done by said editing means causes something wrong  
in the generation of the electronic program guide table, when  
10 determining so, notifies said editing means that there causes  
something wrong in the generation of the electronic program  
guide table, and urges said editing means to re-edit the  
electronic program information.

15           15. The electronic program guide providing device  
according to Claim 12, wherein said table generation means  
determines whether the updating of the electronic program  
information done by said editing means causes something wrong  
in the generation of the electronic program guide table, when  
20 determining so, notifies said editing means that there causes  
something wrong in the generation of the electronic program  
guide table, and restores the electronic program information  
stored in said electronic program information storage means to  
the state it was prior to the updating of the electronic program  
25 information with reference to the histories of the update  
information stored in said update information storage means.

          16. The electronic program guide providing device  
according to Claim 1, wherein said device includes a plurality  
30 of table generation means for generating the electronic program

guide table while sharing a load of generating the electronic program guide table.

17. The electronic program guide providing device  
5 according to Claim 2, wherein said device includes a plurality of table generation means for generating the electronic program guide table while sharing a load of generating the electronic program guide table.

10 18. The electronic program guide providing device according to Claim 1, wherein said table generation means provides the generated electronic program guide table at predetermined intervals, and, when updating the electronic program guide table, provides the electronic program guide  
15 table updated at the same time that it updates the electronic program guide table.

19. The electronic program guide providing device  
according to Claim 2, wherein said table generation means  
20 provides the generated electronic program guide table at predetermined intervals, and, when updating the electronic program guide table, provides the electronic program guide table updated at the same time that it updates the electronic program guide table.